that the new councillors may come into office on 1st November 1952. The question of elections to District Boards is still under consideration.

"As regards panchayat elections, no date has been fixed. Elections will be held on adult suffrage as provided in the Madras Village Panchayats Act. Preparations are being made to hold elections to existing panchayats as soon as possible. These elections will be held in groups in each district one by one."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether any representations have been made to the Government by the Madras Chamber of District Boards with regard to the postponement of elections to District Boards?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" I do not think that any representations have been made."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the question of spacing the elections to Municipalities, District Boards and Panchayats so that elections to Municipalities may be held one year, elections to District Boards the next year, and elections to Panchayats in another year, so that all elections need not be held during one and the same year?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" At present, elections to Municipal Councils alone have been ordered. As regards panchayat elections no date has been fixed. The question of conducting elections to District Boards is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON :—" Sir, it is learnt from the newspapers that the Government have appointed a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet to examine the provisions of the Madras Village Panchayats Act. May I know, whether the elections to the Panchayats will be conducted after this examination by the Sub-Committee of the Cabinet is over?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" The Cabinet Sub-Committee which is examining this matter has not finalized its proposals. The Cabinet will go into the Sub-Committee's proposals as soon as they are submitted to them."

Constitution of separate committees for increasing the powers of the municipal councils and district boards.

* 8 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether separate committees have been constituted to consider the question of increasing the powers of the municipal councils and district boards;

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(b) whether the reports of the respective committees have been received by the Government; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in publishing the reports and passing orders on the same?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The report of the Committee on municipal administration has been received; the Committee on district board administration has not yet concluded its labours and its report is awaited.

" (c) The various recommendations of the Committee on municipal administration had to be examined in detail in consultation with the heads of departments concerned. Government will shortly take a decision on them after which the question of issuing a white paper with a copy of the report appended to it will be considered."

Elections to the Madras Corporation.

* 9 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) when the general elections to the Madras Corporation were last held;

(b) when the next elections to the Madras Corporation are due to be held;

(c) whether arrangements have been made to have the elections conducted accordingly; and

(d) whether the elections are proposed to be held on the basis of adult franchise?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" (a) The general elections to the Madras Corporation were last held in August-September 1948.

" (b) The term of office of the councillors and aldermen was extended by legislation up to 1st November 1952. The next elections are due to be held in August-September 1952.

" (c) & (d) Yes."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the resolution passed by the Corporation of Madras for the postponement of elections and for redistribution of electoral divisions? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" Redistribution of electoral divisions is not necessary, and elections to the Madras Corporation can be held."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether reservation of seats for minorities would continue for the Corporation elections this year? "